

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 565

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Will T. Colter of Lafayette.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of three-time Lafayette Mayor, Mr. Will T. Colter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colter was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Macon County, Mr. Colter was a highly respected member of his community. Prior to his election as mayor in 1980, Will T. Colter was a retired truck driver and terminal manager for Tucker Freight Line and served on the Lafayette City Council; and

WHEREAS, after his first two terms as mayor ended in 1988, Will Colter ran for a council seat again in 1990, and served in that capacity until 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Will sought his third term as mayor, which he was still serving at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, during his lengthy legacy of public service, Mr. Colter was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, during Mayor Colter's administration, the city was awarded a grant by Rural Area Development to install water lines to Lafayette's outlying areas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colter was a strong advocate for industry in Lafayette; he worked diligently to attract companies to the area; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in the expansion of the city's two parks and helped to establish funding for a new position to oversee Key Park and the City Park; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong farmer as well, Mayor Colter understood the nature of the rural community; he took delight in helping his grandsons raise their prize-winning cattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colter was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; it was not uncommon to find him helping his daughter make flower deliveries on Valentine's Day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colter enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Sammy Eden Colter and was the proud parent of three daughters, Cathy White, Joyce Ann Jones, and Deborah Gregory, and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his sisters, Ruby Bartley, Dorothy Russell, Jewell Steen, and Mary Helen Patterson, a host of friends, neighbors, and relatives, and the good people of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colter leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Lafayette Mayor, Will T. Colter, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Colter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.